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Message Text

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44
ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-06 ISO-00 /011 W
---------- 097569
P R 011518Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9216
INFO USIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

UNCLAS BUCHAREST 2825

STATE FOR CU/CP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC RO
SUBJ: CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS - ALVIN AILEY

REF: A) BUDAPEST 1687; B) BUCHAREST 2800

1. AILEY COMPANY OPENED FOUR-PERFORMANCE BUCHAREST SERIES SUNDAY, JUNE 30. DESPITE LAST-MINUTE SCHEDULING OF THIS PERFORMANCE (REFTEL B), OPERA HOUSE WAS COMPLETELY SOLD-OUT. AUDIENCE INCLUDED DUMITRU POPESCU, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL FOR SOCIALIST CULTURE AND EDUCATION, WHO WAS, ACCORDING TO ONE OF HIS AIDES, "ENCHANTED" BY THE AILEY PERFORMANCE.

2. ALTHOUGH AUDIENCE REACTION WAS SUSTAINED AND ENTHUSIASTIC, COMPANY (APPARENTLY STILL TRIPPING ON BUDAPEST EUPHORIA REPORTED REFTEL A) WAS SOMEWHAT LET-DOWN AND LESS THAN COMPLETELY SATISFIED WITH RESPONSE. AILEY HIMSELF WAS UNHAPPY WITH TECHNICAL FLAWS, NONE OF WHICH WERE APPARENT TO FIRST-NIGHTERS. FYI - IN JUDGEMENT OF EMBASSY OFFICERS PRESENT, COMPANY'S DISSATISFACTION NOT WARRANTED SINCE FIVE CURTAIN-CALLS AND SUSTAINED SHOUTS OF "BRAVO" REPRESENTED UNUSUALLY GOOOD ROMANIAN
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RESPONSE. AUDIENCE SAMPLING OF EMBASSY CONTACTS IMMEDIATELY

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FOLLOWING PERFORMANCE WAS UNRESERVEDLY POSITIVE. END FYI.

3. EXTENT OF POPESCU'S "ENCHANTMENT" REVEALED JULY 1 WHEN ARIA DIRECTOR FLOREA REQUESTED MEETING WITH AILEY, WEST, AND CAO, TO EXTEND ROMANIAN APPRECIATION FOR "SUPERB" FIRST PERFORMANCE AND TO EXTEND INVITATION TO AILEY TO MAKE RETURN VISIT TO ROMANIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRODUCING DANCE WITH ROMANIAN BALLET COMPANY AND TO HOLD MASTER CLASSES FOR YOUNGER ROMANIAN DANCERS AND CHOREOGRAPHERS. (ACCORDING TO FLOREA, SUGGESTION--NAY, INSTRUCTIONS--TO DO SO CAME FROM POPESCU HIMSELF.)
AILEY GENUINELY IMPRESSED WITH OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY ARIA REQUEST AND HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO REVISIT ROMANIA FOR WEEK OF FURTHER TALKS DURING SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1974.

4. ROMANIAN EUPHORIC STYLE FOLLOWING AILEY OPENING FURTHER EMPHASIZED BY SCHEDULING OF RECEPTION FOR AILEY COMPANY BY COUNCIL VP ION DODU BALAN AT NOON JULY 3. RECEPTION WILL BE PRECEDED BY SPECIAL PERFORMANCE OF ROMANIAN FOLK DANCE GROUP FOR AILEY COMPANY.

5. AILEY SEEMED DEFINITELY BOOSTED BY ARIA MEETING AND IMPACT OF HIS FIRST PERFORMANCE WHICH THE SESSION REPRESENTED. EMBASSY CONFIDENT THAT JULY 1 AUDIENCE REACTION WILL BE EVEN MORE ENTHUSIASTIC CAPPING REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL DAY.
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